

# FATALITY



AFZF-SAFE

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
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FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000



1 FEB 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Motorcycle Fatality -- Fatality Memo 06-05

1. On 20 January 2006, another preventable Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) accident claimed the life of a III Corps Soldier; the eighth of this fiscal year (FY). He was riding with two friends on a local rural road at night. The victim attempted to maneuver his motorcycle to avoid striking an animal in the roadway, his motorcycle ran over some loose gravel, he began sliding and was unable to regain control of the motorcycle.

2. Phantom Corps has already exceeded FY05's preventable fatalities, a trend that must be stopped. This Soldier is the third victim of a motorcycle accident this fiscal year and five other teammates have perished in automobile accidents. Soldiers need to be aware of road conditions and vehicle limitations so they can take the appropriate actions for the environment they are driving in. Fatigue, alcohol, excessive speed, and inattention to conditions continue to contribute to this high number of fatalities. First-line leaders and commanders must increase their efforts to prevent POV accidents and end this disturbing trend.

3. Homestation accident prevention needs to be a top priority for us as warfighters and teammates; way too many lives are being lost to preventable accidents. Soldiers are returning from OIF/OEF safely only to lose their lives in POV accidents on the streets of America. As we continue to support the Global War on Terrorism, every leader and Soldier must be prepared for the "War on the Highways." In most cases we enter each of our battles on the highway as individuals. First-line leaders and commanders must be committed to preventing the needless loss of life and make a difference in protecting our Soldiers on and off duty. We must properly prepare our Soldiers for roadway operations, as well as help them recognize potential hazards and make appropriate driving decisions. Our duty is to prevent POV accidents and minimize Soldier injuries and fatalities.

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THOMAS F. METZ  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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